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BOROUGH OF PENRYN



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1957

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough of Penryn during 1957.

Despite the floods in the early months and the influenza epidemic in the latter half, it can be truthfully stated that the year was a healthy one. The death rate was on the high side, chiefly due to a jump in the numbers of deaths from Coronary disease. This is probably one of the fluctuations liable to occur in small numbers.

The outstanding features of the year are recorded in Mr. Blackmore's report. Now that the town sewage is discharged at Pannance Point, instead of into the Penryn River the health of the Borough should benefit greatly and much the same can be said for the improved method of refuse disposal.

I welcome this opportunity of again thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year and Mr. Blackmore and staff for their loyal cooperation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) V. E. Whitman.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Except where otherwise stated the figures in brackets throughout the report are the comparable figures for 1956.

Area acres	721	
Population	4320	(4330)
Number of inhabited houses	1433	(1420)
Rateable Value	£37.795	(£40.601)
Product of penny rate	£147	(£158)
Number of houses built or under construction since 1945	415	(390)
Number of families on waiting list for houses	168	(150)

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Males	30 (45)	Females	47 (33)	Total	77 (78)
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor			0.95		(0.95)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn			16.9		(16.9)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales			16.1		(15.6)

Still Births.

Males	3 (0)	Females	0 (1)	Total	3 (1)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, Penryn.			37.5		(12.7)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, England and Wales.			22.4		(23.0)

Deaths.

Males	29 (24)	Females	21 (26)	Total	50 (50)
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor			1.14		(1.14)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn.			13.2		(12.7)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales			11.5		(11.7)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

Males	1 (2)	Females	1 (0)	Total	2 (2)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, Penryn.			26.0		(25.6)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, England and Wales.			23.0		(23.8)

Vital Statistics since 1950.

The figures in brackets in this table are those for United Kingdom.

	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u>	<u>Still Birth rate.</u>
1950	19.1 (15.8)	11.6 (11.6)	NIL (29.6)	NIL (22.7)
1951	17.5 (15.5)	11.2 (12.5)	41.7 (29.7)	27.0 (23.0)
1952	19.5 (15.3)	10.1 (11.3)	24.7 (27.6)	14.0 (22.7)

	<u>Birth Rate</u>		<u>Death Rate.</u>		<u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u>		<u>Still Birth Rate.</u>	
1953	17.0	(15.5)	13.2	(11.4)	27.8	(26.8)	14.0	(22.5)
1954	19.9	(15.2)	11.4	(11.3)	56.1	(25.4)	21.2	(23.5)
1955	21.4	(15.0)	12.0	(11.7)	40.8	(24.9)	20.0	(23.2)
1956	16.9	(15.6)	12.7	(11.7)	25.6	(23.7)	12.7	(22.9)
1957	16.9	(16.1)	13.2	(11.5)	26.0	(23.1)	37.5	(22.5)

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	3	1	2	-
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	1
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	-	2	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	2	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	1	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	4	4	4	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	4	9	11	10
Coronary disease	5	3	5	3	11
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	1	3	-
Other heart disease	2	6	6	8	5
Other circulatory disease	3	6	2	4	2
Influenza	-	-	-	2	1
Pneumonia	4	-	3	1	-
Bronchitis	7	1	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	1	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	3	1	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	2	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	6	9	4	3
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	2	-	1	-	1
Suicide	1	1	-	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>58</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
0+	1 (2)	1 (-)	2 (2)
1 - 4	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5 - 14	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
15 - 24	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
25 - 44	1 (3)	2 (2)	3 (5)
45 - 64	11 (2)	2 (7)	13 (9)
65 - 74	8 (5)	7 (4)	15 (9)
75 +	8 (12)	9 (13)	17 (25)
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	29 (24)	21 (26)	50 (50)
	=====	=====	=====

PERINATAL MORTALITY, 1957.

	<u>Population</u> <u>Mid 1957</u>	<u>Live</u> <u>Births</u>	<u>Still</u> <u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u> <u>within</u> <u>7 days.</u>	<u>Perinatal</u> <u>Mortality.</u>
Falmouth	16,540	247	8	1	35.3
Penryn	4,320	77	3	1	50.0
Truro City	13,540	177	2	1	17.0
Truro Rural	26,560	389	16	10	64.2
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Health Area	60,960	890	29	13	45.7
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Cornwall : Perinatal Mortality 1957, 44.9

England and Wales Perinatal Mortality 1957, 36.2

The meningococcal death was due to a blood infection such as occurs from time to time though much less frequently to-day than in the past. The victim was an infant of nine months. The other infant death was of a new born child of a diabetic mother.

On the 3 deaths in the 25 - 44 year group, 2 were due to cancer. In the 45 - 64 year group, there were 13 deaths, a comparatively high figure. 4 of these all males, were due to coronary disease and 2 to apoplectic strokes, for which the stresses and strains of these times were in some degree responsible. Of the others, 3 were due to cancer.

The perinatal rate is high due to a high still birth rate. Without wishing to minimise the seriousness of this I must point out that this is the first year since 1951 in which the Penryn rate has not been considerably below that for England and Wales.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

1. Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinic.

52 sessions were held at which there were 1,137 (1,076) attendances. The average was thus about 22 (21) per session.

Dental Clinic.

	<u>Expectant and Nursing Mothers</u>	<u>Pre-School Children</u>	<u>School Children.</u>
Number inspected	13 (18)	25 (22)	1,364 (979)
Number requiring treatment	12 (18)	25 (22)	963 (674)
Number treated	12 (18)	25 (20)	288 (312)
Number attendances	42 (58)	50 (50)	436 (457)
Number made dentally fit.	5 (11)	20 (25)	192 (257)

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service.

These services are supplied by Falmouth.

3. Home Help Service.

During the year 7 (12) maternity and 57 (53) other cases were given help in their own homes.

Requests for help are still very numerous but many of these are withdrawn when applicants learn how much they will be asked to contribute towards the cost.

4. After-Care

No grants of free extra nourishment were made during the year.

5. Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting.

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
General Cases	124	57	151	297	153
Nursing Visits.	1,541	1,001	1,066	3,801	3,626
Midwifery cases	57	72	80	57	58
Midwifery visits	1,710	1,467	1,672	1,157	1,268
Ante-Natal visits	405	443	555	477	584
Home visits to children					
under 5	3,440	2,861	3,491	2,925	2,743
Home visits to old persons	486	1,015	360	1,460	1,773

Miss E. J. Jennings, Assistant County Nursing Officer reports:-

Visits to the elderly continue to increase. Both the Health Visitors and the District Nurse have called attention to the need for a chiropody service.

The number of young children in Penryn who are protected against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is well below the safety level. Children are still killed by whooping cough. In Cornwall this year one child of under a year died as the result of it. Immunisation gives protection.

As yet there is no ante-natal relaxation class in Penryn, but one will shortly be started in Falmouth and it is hoped that several of the Penryn expectant mothers will be able to attend.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Measles</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 +	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	1	-	1	-
3 - 4	-	1	-	1
5 - 9	1	-	-	2
10 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 +	-	-	-	-
	2	1	1	3
	3		4	

The only epidemic during the year was due to the Asian type of influenza. The epidemic came in 2 waves, the first of which affected chiefly school children and adolescents. The sickness rate was high, but the symptoms were usually fairly mild and recovery was rapid and complete. There was one death due to the disease, of a male, aged over 60 who had suffered from bronchitis for many years.

Poliomyelitis - There were no cases of this disease during the year. The supply of poliomyelitis vaccine was better than in 1956, but was still inadequate. Only 88 children under fifteen years of age received the full course of 2 doses, while 22 were partially protected with one dose.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 43 (86) children under 5 were immunised against Diphtheria and 26 (106) booster doses were given.

On the 31st December, the estimated number of children between the ages of 1 year and 5 years in Penryn was 310 (315) of these 221 (217) or 71.3% (68.9% had been immunised.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15 +</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number vaccinated	2	13	-	3	18
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	1	8	9

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Gr up

New Cases

Pulmonary.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Under 15	-	-
15 - 44	1	2
45 - 64	1	-
65 and over	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

On the 31st December, there were 48 (43) respiratory and 11 (11) non-respiratory cases on the register.

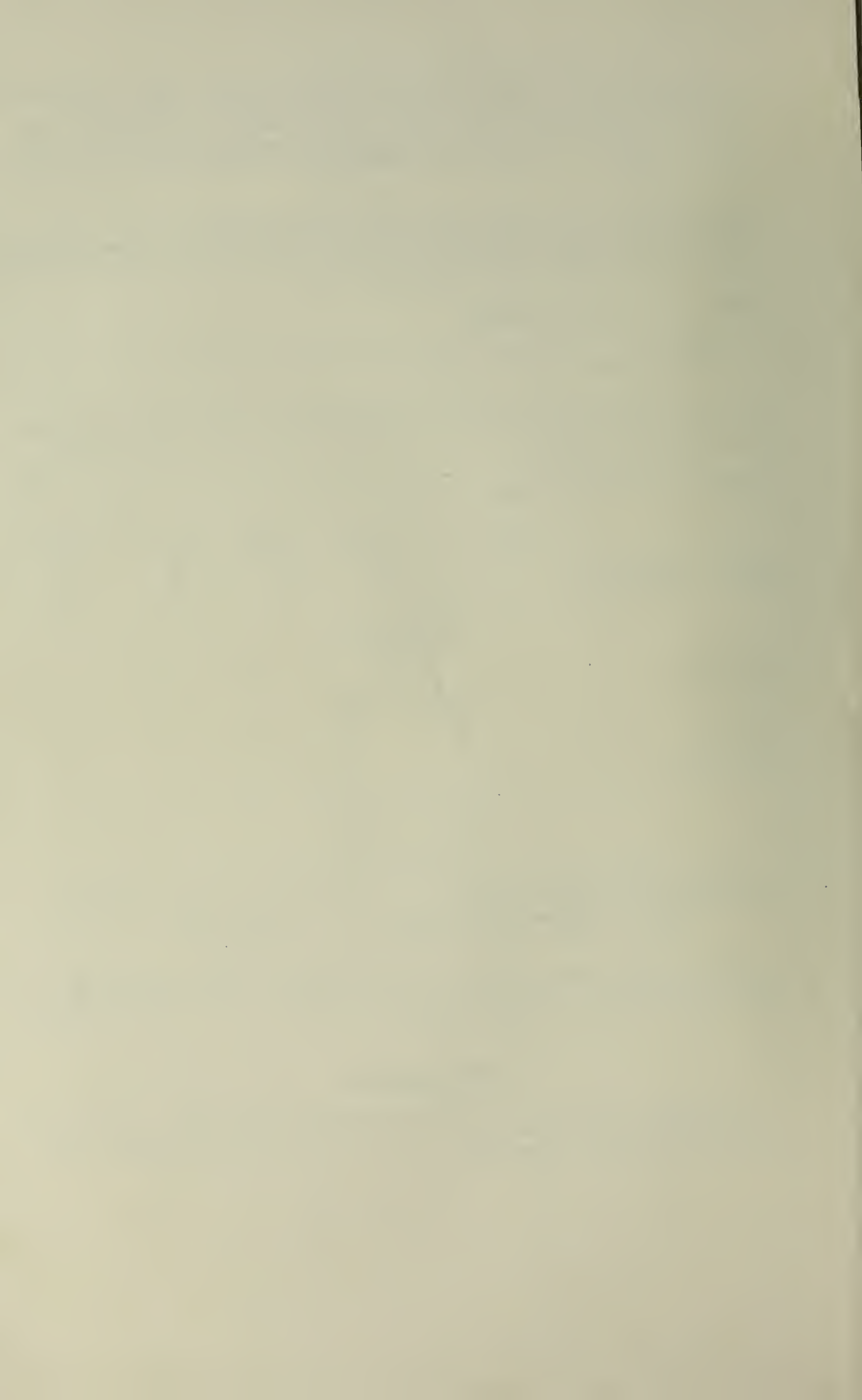
Rate per 1,000 population Penryn. 13.7 (12.5)

Rate per 1,000 population, Cornwall. 7.4 (7.1)

Up to 31st December, 229 (180+ children 62 (53) of them contacts with cases of tuberculosis, had received B.C.G. vaccination. 167 (127) were dealt with under the scheme for school leavers.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit Penryn during 1957, but 136 Penryn school children were examined by the Mass Radiography Unit in Falmouth. No significant cases were discovered.



BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

Public Health Inspector's Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

WATER SUPPLY.

The Falmouth Corporation Waterworks have maintained an adequate supply of wholesome water to the Borough during the year.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The scheme for the relaying of the low level sewers to the new pumping station was completed during the latter end of the year. The pumping station commenced operation in November, and the sewage from the Borough is now discharged into the Falmouth sewer at Trescoboeas Road, whence it gravitates to the sea outfall at Penance Point.

Careful checks have been made on the three stormwater overflows, discharging into the Penryn River and these have been found to operate at not less than six times the dry weather flow of the system.

The sewer from the adjoining village of Mabe was connected to the Council's sewer at Greenwood Crescent, in accordance with the agreement between the Kerrier Rural District Council and this Authority, and came into operation during the month of December.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The weekly collection of refuse has continued satisfactorily during the year. The number of loads collected were 932 as against 899 for last year. The increased collection is again due to additional houses and combined refuse and salvage collection.

Continuous effort has been made to find a market for paper salvage, but the quantity for regular disposal appears to be not large enough to attract a contract arrangement.

The disposal of refuse has continued on the Bissom Site and since the month of May has been a pleasure to administer. The purchase of the Bristol 25 Tipmaster, regularly recommended since 1951, has resulted in complete compaction of the tipped refuse and enabled the regular covering with soil to be carried out. This mechanization has produced a better disposal, takes less area of land and eliminates the fly problem of previous years. It is appreciated that the cost of the operation has been little reduced, but the result in terms of hygiene and appearance are very considerable.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Public Conveniences at the Town Hall, Town Quay, Glasnoy Playing Field and Trelawney Park have been maintained during the year.

Some vandalism on fittings in the Ladies Toilet at the Town Quay was checked by placing the pre-payment lock on the external door of this convenience.

FOOD.

(a) Slaughterhouse.

The one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough has been little used, as such during the year, owing to the incapacity of the owner/occupier. The meat which would otherwise have been killed at this slaughterhouse was in the main imported from the Truro R.D.C. area.

The number of carcasses inspected and dealt with are as follows:-

Slaughterhouses (cont)

	Cattle Excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	NIL	4	NIL	2	7
Number Inspected	NIL	4	NIL	2	7
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses Condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses Condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
All diseases Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Cattle 2 Sheep - Pigs 2	(1 liver, 1 head) (1 lung, 1 head)			
TOTAL weight of whole Carcasses condemned NIL.					

(b) Other Food Stuffs.

During the year the following items of food have been condemned unfit for human consumption all of which were voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

Fish (Bream) 56 lbs.

Canned Foods.

Corned Beef 59 lbs.
Ham 25 1/2 lbs.

Fruit.

Bananas 2 lbs.
Prunes 100 lbs.

(c) Food Premises.

There are 61 premises in the Borough which sell food of various types as shown in the schedule, all of which have been visited at least twice during the year.

The storage and handling of food stuffs, and in particular the storage and exhibition for sale of unwrapped food stuffs has considerably improved during the year.

The increased competition for the sale of packed cut bread has resulted in a much greater use of wrapping of bread and confectionery by the local bakers, although there is still room for improvement.

Schedule of Food Premises

General Provisions, including open foods	20	(11 selling ice cream)
Bakehouses	3	
Bakers and Confectioners (retail)	4	(1 selling ice cream, 2 with cafes)
Sweetshops	7	
Dairy	1	(selling ice cream)
Fish & Chips	5	(1 selling ice cream)
Greengrocers	5	
Ice Cream	1	
Licensed Premises	9	(1 serving meals)
Fish (Retail & Wholesale)	1	
Wholesale Dairies	2	(Pasteurised and T.T. Milk)
Wholesale Food Supplier	1	
Butchers	6	

(ii) Registered Food Premises.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Ice Cream (packed only)	14	23
Fish & Chip	5	11
Butchers	6	14

(iii) Condemned food is disposed of by burying on the Council's refuse disposal site.

HOUSING.

During the year, as the result of 'Time & Place' Notices served, the Council decided to purchase 12 sub-standard properties which the owners were financially unable to repair. Outline Schemes for the repair, improvement and conversion of 8 of these houses were approved to provide 8 properly equipped houses of modern standard. One house is to be used for temporary storage purposes and afterwards demolished and the remaining three houses are to be patched, awaiting further development in the surrounding areas.

Total number of permanent dwellings in District	1433
Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority	497
Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation (As per Ministry Circular 55/54)	150
1. Number of houses in Clearance Areas for which -	
(a) Clearance Orders have been made	15
(b) Compulsory Purchase Order made	Nil
(c) Purchased by agreement (under negotiation)	12
	<hr/> 27 <hr/>
2. Number of Houses included in Clearance Areas still to be made	81
3. Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954,	Nil
4. Number of Houses demolished under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936.	Nil
5. Number of houses demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil
6. Number of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	Nil
7. Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.	104
8. Number of houses closed as a result of an under-taking given by the owners of, following the issue of Closing Orders.	2
9. Number of unfit houses occupied under licence.	Nil

HOUSING (cont)

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1954 to 31st December, 1957.		Housing Programme for 1958.	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes.
260	53	8	8

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection.		Gained from conversion of large houses or Buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one.
	For Slum Clear- ance.	For other pur- poses.	For Slum Clear- ance	For other pur- poses.		
Local Authority		9	13	-	NIL	NIL
Private Enterprise		4	-	2	NIL	NIL

a.	No. of temporary housing units occupied	Nil
b.	No. of houses found overcrowded	18
c.	No. of houses made fit during year	16
d.	No. of inspections made during year	73
e.	No. of Informal Notices served	22
f.	No. of Informal Notices complied with	19
g.	No. of Statutory Notices served	3
h.	No. of Statutory Notices complied with	2

Houses required:-

1.	To replace houses scheduled for demolition	98
2.	To abate overcrowding	18
3.	For other purposes.	
	Total number of applications for Council Houses at end of year	141

Total number of Council Houses sold during year NIL

Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949 - 54.

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:-

	(1) Received		(2) Approved		(3) Rejected.	
	Aps.	No of dwellings	Aps.	No of dwellings	Aps.	No of dwellings.
31.7.49 31.12.55 During year.	4	4	4	4	NIL	NIL

NOTE: Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers 4

Average cost per dwelling approved:-

£409

Average rent fixed

Amount of grant payable by L.A. stated as %

49%

MILK DISTRIBUTORS.

There are 6 registered distributors within the Borough, who retail bottled pasturised milk, two distributors from other districts supply small amounts of milk within the Borough.

RODENT CONTROL.

1. The systematic inspection and treatment of premises in the Borough has been continued during the year and once again no major infestation has been discovered.
2. The infestation of private houses and business premises has not called for any Statutory action during the year.
3. The maintenance of proofing arrangements of premises on the waterfront, has reduced the resident infestation in that area to the minimum.
4. The sewers, part of which have been opened for reconstruction, have been treated twice during the year and the man-holes in which 'takes' were recorded were 11 against 6 in the previous year.
5. The controlled Refuse Disposal site at Bissom has been regularly inspected and the four treatments during the year have kept the site and the immediately surrounding area free of rats.

The analysis of the year's work is as follows:-

Number of visits 2278.

Premises Treated.

Dwellings and gardens	181
Refuse Disposal Site	4
Business Premises	3
Corporation Property	5

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

K. R. Blackmore,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.

